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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Mullah terror in Iran - Hurriyet 6/15  
Students want Hamanei's head - Hurriyet 6/14  
Iranians urge mullahs to leave - Vatan  
Bush supports Iranian dissidents - Milliyet  
Iranian students determined to continue protest until regime change - Milliyet 6/14  
Tehran employs Saddam's missile experts - Milliyet  
Turkey, Pakistan revive ties - Turkiye  
Greek defense minister: Generals in power in Turkey - Aksam 6/15  
Iraqi Kurds to unite their administrations - Milliyet 6/14  
Erdogan: Turkey will do without IMF after 2004 - Hurriyet 6/15

##### OPINION MAKERS

Iran on razor's edge - Radikal  
Conservatives take stage in Iran, beat civilians - Radikal 6/14  
Bush hails Iranian students, tough on Hamas - Zaman  
Prof. Larouche: U.S. wants instability in Iran, not regime change - Zaman 6/14  
War in Iraq never ends - Cumhuriyet  
U.S. launches operation 'Desert Scorpion' against Iraqi resistance - Radikal  
Iraq still on fire - Radikal 6/14  
Erdogan: We'll be happy with Pakistani presence in Iraq - Yeni Safak  
Gul: We want to turn Aegean into a sea of peace - Zaman  
Israel preparing for withdrawal - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

U.S.-Iran tension: Dailies from over the weekend and on Monday report on the growing demonstrations against the 'regime of mullahs' in Iran. Dailies mention an 'open letter' issued by reformist politicians, clerics, opposition groups, intellectuals, and journalists in defense of the Iranian people's right to criticize and even bring down the Iranian administration. President Bush has seized the opportunity to challenge the rulers of Iran, and voiced support for the protestors, saying that 'people are expressing views for a free Iran, which is a positive development.' Reports also quote Ari Fleischer as denouncing attacks by a militia loyal to Iran's spiritual leader Hamanei against the students.

MFA U/S in U.S.: MFA U/S Ambassador Ugur Ziyal and his delegation are scheduled to meet with Grossman, Wolfowitz, Larson, Burns and some Congressmen in Washington before returning on Thursday. Dailies regard the visit as an effort to 'repair the damage' in U.S.-Turkey ties. Ankara and Washington will discuss the future of the bilateral strategic relationship, and will also focus on Iran and Cyprus.

PM Erdogan in Pakistan: The first Turkish Prime Minister to visit Pakistan in the last five years, Erdogan and his Pakistani counterpart have decided to hold annual bilateral meetings to boost ties. In a joint press conference with his counterpart Prime Minister Jemali, Erdogan called for Pakistani participation in peacekeeping activities in Iraq.

Erdogan, who is scheduled to meet with Pakistani head of state Musharraf on Monday, is expected to call for membership of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) in the Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC). Papers say that Turkey and Pakistan will sign agreements on ground transportation, environmental protection, and the struggle against drug trafficking.

Turkey, EU: On the eve of critical parliamentary discussions on the EU reform package this week, Foreign Minister Gul said that if Turkey manages to pass necessary reforms in the next two months, accession negotiations with the EU could begin in 2004. This would pave the way for Turkey's EU membership by 2010. Dailies expect no drastic change in Turkey-EU relations at the upcoming EU summit in Thessaloniki, Greece this weekend. The Thessaloniki summit will call on Ankara and the Turkish Cypriots to support the UN-sponsored peace plan for Cyprus.  
EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) Middle East
- b) Iran and US-Turkish relations

"New era in the Middle East"  
Yasemin Congar observed in mass appeal Milliyet (6/16): "It may sound like a distant dream, yet there are some positive developments in the Middle East. The first good sign comes with the reaffirmation of the US commitment to the roadmap. Secretary Powell's message that 'we will not give up, we

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will not stumble' should be taken as a very important declaration. . There are also some positive things happening in the Israel-Palestine dialogue. Most importantly, the channel for dialogue remains open despite the negative developments on the ground. . The third good sign comes from Europe and regional countries, which have signaled their active participation in the process. They all consider themselves part of the Middle East initiative. . As for Ankara, these developments should be read correctly, and Turkey should not remain an observer. Ankara must give a hand to Palestinian PM Abbas. Turkey is capable of accelerating the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue through clever diplomacy."

"Ziyal's visit"  
Asli Aydintasbas wrote in mass appeal Sabah (6/16): "The visit of Turkish MFA U/S Ziyal to Washington is basically an effort to repair the bilateral relationship. He will convey messages from Ankara and listen to what US officials have to say. . In fact, there are enough signs already about what Ziyal will be hearing from the US. Richard Perle of the AEI recently revealed that message. Perle highlighted the Iranian nuclear program and regime's link with terrorism, and hinted that the repair of Turkish-American ties goes through US-Turkish cooperation on Iran. . 'Ankara should have a very clear stance about Iran' says an American official. Washington wants to know whether Turkey will be on the US side in a possible campaign against Iran."

PEARSON